REMARKS

The enclosed is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on June 23, 2006. At the time the Examiner mailed the Office Action claims 1-22 were pending. By way of the present response the Applicants have: 1) amended claim 15, 2) added no new claims, and 3) canceled no claims. As such, claims 1-22 are now pending. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application and the allowance of all claims now presented.

Claim Rejections 35 USC §102

Claims 1-13 and 18-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ramon J. San Andres, et al. US Patent Application Publication 2002/0124082 (hereinafter "San Andres").

In reference to claims 1 and 18, Applicants respectfully submit that San Andres does not describe all of the features of the claims. More specifically, San Andres does not describe that each respective property name included in a property sheet data structure is associated with a non-modifiable parameter and, optionally, a modifiable parameter.

San Andres describes an architecture for a plurality of Directory Service Providers to act as a shared database with a common application program interface (API). In the description, San Andres states that service-specific properties may be defined for nodes of the Directory Service. See page 12, paragraph 0165. San Andres further states, "When...a new node is created (or edited) by a sysop, the corresponding node editor 442 is invoked to provide a

property sheet of the properties that can be set by sysops….The sysop can then specify or modify these properties via a user interface of the Sysop Tools client application **444**." *Id.* at lines 4-12.

San Andres does not describe, though, that each modifiable property has a modifiable parameter and a non-modifiable parameter. For example, in the present set of claims, if the non-modifiable parameter is a default value and the modifiable parameter is a newly assigned value, the default value will still exist if the modifiable parameter is changed. San Andres describes only one parameter existing per property, whether modifiable or non-modifiable ("Each node property…has a property name **502**, a property type **504**, and a property value **506**."). (emphasis added). Page 13, paragraph 0176, lines 1-3. Thus, as described by San Andres, if a parameter is modified, the default value would be lost because no extra parameter exists for the default value to be stored.

As a result, San Andres does not describe all of the features of claims 1 and 18. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 18 are in condition for allowance.

In reference to claim 11, Applicants respectfully submit that the above arguments for claims 1 and 18 apply in that San Andres does not describe "each parameter associated with a name, a default parameter and optionally a custom parameter." As a result, San Andres does not describe all of the features of claim 11. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is also in condition for allowance.

Since claims 2-10, 12-13, and 19-22 depend from independent claims 1, 11, or 18 and include additional features, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-10, 12-13, and 19-22 are also in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections 35 USC §103

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over San Andres in view of Waqar Sadiq, U.S. Publication 2004/0148183 (hereinafter "Sadiq").

Since claim 14 depends from independent claim 11 and includes additional features, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 14 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 15 - 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over San Andres in view of Steven D. Kim, U.S. Publication 2002/0069272 (hereinafter "Kim").

In reference to claim 15, San Andres in view of Kim does not teach or suggest all of the features of the claim. More specifically, neither San Andres nor Kim describe each configuration parameter being associated with a non-modifiable parameter.

As previously described for claims 1 and 18, San Andres describes only a configuration parameter existing if a parameter is modifiable. San Andres does not describe a non-modifiable parameter for each configuration parameter also existing.

Kim describes a computer system with configuration parameters that are automatically updated throughout the servers of the computer system when a database of configuration parameters is updated. Kim does not describe, though, each configuration parameter being associated with a non-modifiable parameter.

As a result, San Andres in view of Kim does not teach or suggest all of the features of claim 15. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 15 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 16-17 depend from independent claim 15 and include additional features, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 16-17 are also in condition for allowance.

In light of the comments above, the Applicants respectfully request the allowance of all claims.
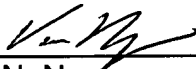
CONCLUSION

For the reasons provided above, applicant respectfully submits that the current set of claims are allowable. If the Examiner believes an additional telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Thomas C. Webster at (408) 720-8300.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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